

DRAFT Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
January 18, 2012

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Michael Baefsky, Public Member At-Large; Jerry Casey, General Services Department; Michael Fry, Public Member At-Large; Vince Guise, Agriculture Department; Christine Hagelin, Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation; Dan Jordan, County Clean Water Program; Michael Kent, Health Services; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Tunyalee Martin, Public Member At-Large; Joe Yee, Public Works
(11 members present/7 voting members)

Public Member Alternate Present: Myrto Pretreas

Members Absent: Jim Hale, County Fish and Wildlife Committee

Staff Present: Joe Doser, Environmental Health; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Roland Hindsman and Kevin Lachapelle, General Services; Ed Swan, Public Works Department; Larry Yost, Agriculture Department

Members of the Public Present: Robin Bedell-Waite, resident of El Sobrante; [Jeff Skinner, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District](#); Susan JunFish, Karen Perkins, and Rena Meyers-Dahlkamp, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

Vince Guise announced that the annual weed-pull at Antioch Dunes will be February 18. All volunteers are welcome.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Susan JunFish noted that the Departments are using pesticides that she considers “Bad Actors” but are not designated as such by the County—Public Works: Garlon 3A, diphacinone, and Weevilcide; Department of Agriculture: Asana, esfenvalerate, and diphacinone; and General Services: bromadiolone. Susan JunFish was concerned that the topic of “Bad Actors” was not on the agenda for today. The Chair replied that it would be on the agenda in March. The Committee is obliged to focus on the discussion of Committee priorities at this first meeting of the year.

Rena Meyers-Dahlkamp read a statement from Katherine Barrett that had been read at the December 2011 TWIC meeting. When staff receives a copy of the statement it will be included in the minutes. Rena Meyers-Dahlkamp suggested that a pest control strategy subcommittee include evaluation of “Bad Actors”.

4. Approve minutes from November 2, 2011

A motion was made and seconded (ML/MB) to approve the minutes as written.

The motion carried unanimously among the members that attended the November meeting (5-0).

Susan JunFish noted that Bellal Daunish’s comment included a discussion on the salts of “Bad Actors”. When staff receives a copy of Bellal Daunish’s comments they will be attached to the minutes.

5. Review December 2011 Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee, December 2011 Internal Operations Committee, and January 2012 Board of Supervisors’ meetings

12/12/11 Internal Operations Committee Meeting, Supervisors Gioia and Piepho

Twelve citizens applied for the 3 at-large public seats on the Committee. Only 11 were interviewed by the supervisors because Joe Doser, who also works in the Environmental Health Department, recused himself. The supervisors were impressed with the high level of qualifications of all the applicants and mentioned that choosing only 3 was difficult. They selected Michael Baefsky, Michael Fry and Tunyalee Martin. Tunyalee Martin works at the U.C. Statewide IPM Program. The supervisors suggested adding a public seat alternate,

and Myrto Petreas from the Department of Toxic Substances Control was selected for the seat. This seat does not have a vote unless one of the public members is absent. All of these seats are 2-year terms.

12/14/11 Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee Meeting (TWIC), Supervisors Piepho and Mitchoff

TWIC heard a summary of the IPM Annual Report and heard comments from the public on the IPM Program. The supervisors asked that the IPM Committee provide TWIC with a matrix of options for controlling pests in each Department. They want to know if the options are long-term and sustainable and if they are cost effective. In 90 days TWIC would like to see the evaluation tool for the IPM Program that the Data Management Subcommittee has been working on. They would also like to see a methodology for how Departments make pest management decisions. They are interested in what is needed to progress to a higher level of IPM—equipment? budget? staff?

1/17/12 Board of Supervisors Meeting

The Board appointed the public members and alternate recommended by the Internal Operations Committee. They also appointed Jim Hale as representative from the Fish and Wildlife Committee, Marj Leeds as representative from the Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board, Dan Jordan from the County Clean Water Program, and Jerry Casey from the General Services Department.

6. Election of Officers

Officers in 2011 were Michael Kent, Chair; Marj Leeds, Vice Chair; and Ted Shapas, Secretary. The Chair facilitates meetings and works with staff to set agendas. The Vice Chair steps in if the Chair is absent, and the Secretary helps to take notes during the meetings.

Michael Baefsky thanked Chair Kent for his service and the excellent job he has done facilitating the meetings, and nominated him for a second term as Chair. Michael Fry seconded the nomination and Michael Kent was elected unanimously (7-0).

Michael Kent nominated Marj Leeds for a second term as Vice Chair. Christine Hagelin seconded this, and Marj Leeds was elected unanimously (7-0).

Michael Kent nominated Tunyalee Martin as Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Michael Baefsky and Tunyalee Martin was elected unanimously (7-0).

7. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

See attached Department reports.

8. Hear reports from the subcommittees: Data Management, Roadside Vegetation Management, and Design Review

These 3 subcommittees were formed in early spring of 2011.

Data Management

This committee explored the kinds of data that might be helpful to collect for IPM implementation and evaluation. The committee looked at IPM reports from Santa Clara County and San Francisco to understand the data they collect, and then interviewed each Department to determine what data is already being collected. The committee combined the data into a matrix and worked on how this might be used to evaluate the County's IPM program.

Roadside Vegetation Management

This committee interviewed Joe Yee and Ed Swan to better understand the daily operations of the Roadside Vegetation Management Crew. The committee collected and reviewed data from the program and collected similar data from Santa Clara County's vegetation management program. Santa Clara County uses far less pesticide than Contra Costa and far more mechanical and hand weed management, but in 2010 Santa Clara's expenditures on roadside vegetation management were around \$3.6 million, whereas Contra Costa expended about \$1.3 million. Santa Clara has 9 tractor mowers while Contra Costa has 2. In order to maintain vegetation for fire regulations, Santa Clara must mow year round.

The committee also explored fire regulations for Contra Costa and met with the San Ramon Valley Fire District. This committee is inactive currently, but staff will meet with the various fire districts to understand their priorities for roadside fire prevention in the County to make sure the Vegetation Management Program's priorities coincide.

Design Review

This committee developed a list of pest prevention design criteria for both landscapes and buildings. The next step is for staff to find an appropriate place for this document to reside. This committee is currently inactive.

9. Develop priorities for the Committee for 2012 and assign issues to existing or new subcommittees

A number of ideas for Committee priorities were mentioned:

- a. Creating an evaluation tool for the IPM program that uses more than just pounds of pesticide for evaluation (MK, MF, and the Board of Supervisors)
- b. Mapping of pesticide use sites (VG, MF, CH, MP, SJF)
- c. Clarifying and documenting the Departments' decision-making processes (VG, KL, and the Board of Supervisors)
- d. Making information more easily available to the public, on the web or in other ways, especially where and when pesticides are being used (CH, SJF)
- e. Helping the Public Works Department with low-budget alternatives to pesticides (JY)
- f. Costing out pesticide alternatives (MK, RBW, and the Board of Supervisors)
- g. Clearly communicating to the public what the Departments actually do (JY)
- h. Educating the public about IPM; outreach to the community including success stories (JY, MP, SJF); note that the region-wide Our Water, Our World program that is partially supported by the County does conduct extensive outreach to citizens about IPM and pesticide use
- i. Adopting San Francisco or Santa Clara's system for pesticide use data collection (SJF)
- j. Posting pesticide application information on the web 72 hours before; posting signs on trailheads (SJF, KP)
- k. Making audio tapes of the IPM Committee and subcommittee meetings (KP)

The following 3 subcommittees were proposed:

- a. IPM Decision-Making—clarifying and documenting how pest management decisions are being made in order to show that the County is doing the best job possible; exploring the cost of alternatives
- b. Data Management/IPM Program Evaluation—continuing work on what data should be collected and on developing an evaluation tool
- c. Transparency—exploring how to present data to the public on the website and which data to include

It was moved and seconded that the above subcommittees constitute the 3 priorities for the coming year (MF/CH). The motion passed unanimously (7-0)

It was suggested that the subcommittees explore what other entities are doing and how they are handling similar problems/issues in order not to re-invent the wheel.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Update on the grazing project
- Update on spongeplant in the Delta
- "Bad actor" pesticides
- Updates from subcommittees
- Department reports

Susan JunFish requested that the Committee discuss the status of the IPM Policy and the weakening of its language. The Chair responded that if the Board of Supervisors did not approve the IPM Policy revisions, the Committee would take up the issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator